



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

2010 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 180

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010

The following bill was reported to the House from the Senate and ordered to be printed.

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TREY GRAYSON
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY R. Allen

AN ACT relating to alternative certification for Teach for America participants.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

1 ➔Section 1. KRS 161.048 is amended to read as follows:

2 **(1) The General Assembly hereby finds that:**

3 (a) 1. There are persons who have distinguished themselves through a variety
4 of work and educational experiences that could enrich teaching in
5 Kentucky schools;

6 2. There are distinguished scholars who wish to become teachers in
7 Kentucky's public schools, but who did not pursue a teacher preparation
8 program;

9 3. There are persons who should be recruited to teach in Kentucky's public
10 schools as they have academic majors, strong verbal skills as shown by a
11 verbal ability test, and deep knowledge of content, characteristics that
12 empirical research identifies as important attributes of quality teachers;

13 4. There are persons who need to be recruited to teach in Kentucky schools
14 to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of students; and

15 5. There should be alternative procedures to the traditional teacher
16 preparation programs that qualify persons as teachers.

(b) There are hereby established alternative certification program options as described in subsections (2) ~~to (9)~~ ~~through (8)~~ of this section.

19 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Educational Professional
20 Standards Board inform scholars, persons with exceptional work experience,
21 and persons with diverse backgrounds who have potential as teachers of these
22 options and assist local boards of education in implementing these options and
23 recruitment of individuals who can enhance the education system in
24 Kentucky.

25 (d) The Education Professional Standards Board shall promulgate administrative

1 regulations establishing standards and procedures for the alternative
2 certification options described in this section.

3 (2) Option 1: Certification of a person with exceptional work experience. An individual
4 who has exceptional work experience and has been offered employment in a local
5 school district shall receive a one (1) year provisional teaching certificate with
6 approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of a joint application by
7 the individual and the employing school district under the following conditions:

8 (a) The application contains documentation of all education and work experience;

9 (b) The candidate has documented ten (10) years of exceptional work experience
10 in the area in which certification is being sought;

11 (c) The candidate possesses:

12 1. a. A minimum of a bachelor's degree, with a cumulative grade point
13 average of two and five-tenths (2.5) on a four (4) point scale or a
14 grade point average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the
15 last sixty (60) hours of credit completed, including undergraduate
16 and graduate coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited
17 postsecondary institution; or

18 b. A graduate degree with a cumulative grade point average of two
19 and five-tenths (2.5) on a four (4) point scale or a grade point
20 average of three (3.0) on a four (4) point scale on the last sixty (60)
21 hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate
22 coursework from a nationally or regionally accredited
23 postsecondary institution; and

24 2. An academic major or a passing score on the academic content
25 assessment designated by the Education Professional Standards Board;
26 and

27 (d) The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under

1 subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of KRS 161.030. After successful completion
2 of the internship, the candidate shall receive a regular professional certificate
3 and shall be subject to certificate renewal requirements the same as any other
4 teacher with a regular professional certificate.

5 (3) Option 2: Certification through a local district training program. A local district or
6 group of districts may seek approval for a training program. The state-approved
7 local district training program is an alternative to the college teacher preparation
8 program as a means of acquiring teacher certification for a teacher at any grade
9 level. The training program may be offered for all teaching certificates approved by
10 Education Professional Standards Board, including interdisciplinary early childhood
11 education, except for specific certificates for teachers of exceptional children. To
12 participate in a state-approved local district alternative training program, the
13 candidate shall:

14 (a) Possess a bachelor's degree with a grade point average of two and five tenths
15 (2.5) on a four (4) point scale or, upon approval by the Education Professional
16 Standards Board, at least a grade point average of two (2) on a four (4) point
17 scale if the candidate has exceptional life experience related to teaching and
18 has completed the bachelor's degree at least five (5) years prior to submitting
19 an application to the program.

20 (b) Pass written tests designated by the Education Professional Standards Board
21 for content knowledge in the specific teaching field of the applicant with
22 minimum scores in each test as set by the Education Professional Standards
23 Board. To be eligible to take a subject field test, the applicant shall have
24 completed a thirty (30) hour major in the academic content area or five (5)
25 years of experience in the academic content area as approved by the Education
26 Professional Standards Board.

27 (c) Have been offered employment in a school district which has a training

- 1 program approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.
- 2 (d) Upon meeting the participation requirements as established in this subsection,
3 the candidate shall be issued a one (1) year provisional certificate by the
4 Education Professional Standards Board. The regular provisional certificate
5 shall be issued upon satisfactory completion of the program and the teacher
6 testing internship program pursuant to KRS 161.030.
- 7 (e) The Education Professional Standards Board may reject the application of any
8 candidate who is judged as not meeting academic requirements comparable to
9 those for students enrolled in Kentucky teacher preparation programs.
- 10 (4) Option 3: Certification of a professional from a postsecondary institution: A
11 candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive alternative
12 certification for teaching at any level:
- 13 (a) A master's degree or doctoral degree in the academic content area for which
14 certification is sought;
- 15 (b) A minimum of five (5) years of full-time teaching experience, or its
16 equivalent, in the academic content area for which certification is sought in a
17 regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education; and
- 18 (c) Successful completion of the teacher internship requirement imposed under
19 KRS 161.030.
- 20 (5) Option 4: Certification of an adjunct instructor. A person who has expertise in areas
21 such as art, music, foreign language, drama, science, and other specialty areas may
22 be employed as an adjunct instructor in a part-time position by a local board of
23 education under KRS 161.046. An individual certified as an adjunct instructor shall
24 not be deemed "highly qualified" under the provisions of the federal No Child Left
25 Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. secs. 6301 et seq.
- 26 (6) Option 5: Certification of a veteran of the Armed Forces. The Education
27 Professional Standards Board shall issue a statement of eligibility, valid for five (5)

years, to a veteran for teaching at the elementary, secondary, and secondary vocational education levels with the following qualifications:

- (a) 1. Discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions after six (6) or more years of continuous active duty immediately before the discharge or release; or
- 2. Completed a total of at least ten (10) years of active duty service, ten (10) years of service officially credited toward armed services retirement, or ten (10) years' combination of such service;
- (b) At least a bachelor's degree in the content area or closely related area for which certification is sought, issued by a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education;
- (c) A grade point average of two and five-tenths (2.5) on a four (4) point scale for a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree; and
- (d) A passing score on the written exit assessment examination designated by the Education Professional Standards Board for content knowledge.

Upon an offer of employment by a school district, the eligible veteran shall receive a one (1) year provisional teaching certificate with approval by the Education Professional Standards Board of a joint application by the veteran and the employing school district. During this year, the veteran shall participate in the teacher internship program under subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of KRS 161.030. Upon successful completion of the internship program, the veteran shall receive a regular professional certificate.

- (7) Option 6: University alternative program. With approval of the Education Professional Standards Board, a university may provide an alternative program that enrolls students in a postbaccalaureate teacher preparation program concurrently with employment as a teacher in a local school district. A student in the alternative program shall be granted a temporary provisional certificate and shall be a candidate

1 in the Kentucky teacher internship program, notwithstanding provisions of KRS
 2 161.030. A student may not participate in the internship program until the student
 3 has successfully completed the assessments required by the board. The temporary
 4 provisional certificate shall be valid for a maximum of one (1) year, and may be
 5 renewed two (2) additional years, and shall be contingent upon the candidate's
 6 continued enrollment in the preparation program and compliance with all
 7 requirements established by the board. A professional certificate shall be issued
 8 upon the teacher candidate's successful completion of the program, the internship
 9 requirements, and all assessments required by the board.

10 (8) Option 7: Certification of a person in a field other than education to teach in
 11 elementary, middle, or secondary programs. This option shall not be limited to
 12 teaching in shortage areas.

13 (a) An individual certified under provisions of this subsection shall be issued a
 14 one (1) year temporary provisional teaching certificate, renewable for a
 15 maximum of two (2) additional years with approval of the Education
 16 Professional Standards Board provided that the candidate:

- 17 1. Possesses a bachelor's degree with a declared academic major in the area
 18 in which certification is sought and a cumulative grade point average of
 19 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or a professional or graduate degree in a field related
 20 to the area in which certification is sought;
- 21 2. Has a minimum score of five hundred (500) on the verbal section and a
 22 minimum score of four (4) on the analytical writing section of the
 23 Graduate Record Examination (GRE). In addition, teachers of
 24 mathematics and physical and biological sciences shall have a minimum
 25 score of four hundred fifty (450) on the quantitative section of the GRE.
 26 A candidate who has a professional degree shall be exempt from the
 27 requirements of this subparagraph; and

1 3. Passes written tests designated by the Education Professional Standards
2 Board for content knowledge in the specific teaching field of the
3 applicant with minimum scores in each test as set by the board.

4 (b) Prior to receiving the temporary provisional certificate or during the first year
5 of the certificate, the teacher shall complete the following:

6 1. For elementary teaching, the individual shall successfully complete the
7 equivalent of a two hundred forty (240) hour institute, based on six (6)
8 hour days for eight (8) weeks. The providers and the content of the
9 institute shall be approved by the Education Professional Standards
10 Board. The content shall include research-based teaching strategies in
11 reading and math, research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge
12 of individual differences, including teaching exceptional children, and
13 methods of classroom management.

14 2. For middle and secondary teaching, the individual shall successfully
15 complete the equivalent of a one hundred eighty (180) hour institute,
16 based on six (6) hour days for six (6) weeks. The providers and the
17 content of the institute shall be approved by the Education Professional
18 Standards Board and shall include research-based teaching strategies,
19 research on child and adolescent growth, knowledge of individual
20 differences, including teaching exceptional children, and methods of
21 classroom management.

22 (c) The candidate shall participate in the teacher internship program under
23 subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of KRS 161.030. After successful completion
24 of the internship program, the candidate shall receive a regular professional
25 certificate.

26 (9) **Option 8. Certification of a Teach for America participant to teach in**
27 **elementary, middle, or high schools. Nothing in this subsection shall conflict with**

1 the participation criteria of the Teach for America program.

2 (a) An individual certified under this subsection shall be issued a one (1) year
 3 temporary provisional teaching certificate if the candidate:

4 1. Has an offer of employment from a local school district;

5 2. Possesses a bachelor's degree;

6 3. Successfully completes the summer training institute and ongoing
 7 professional development required by Teach for America, including
 8 instruction in goal-oriented, standards-based instruction, diagnosing
 9 and assessing students, lesson planning and instructional delivery,
 10 classroom management, maximizing learning for diverse students,
 11 and teaching methodologies; and

12 4. Successfully passes written tests designated by the Education
 13 Professional Standards Board for content knowledge in the specific
 14 teaching field of the candidate with minimum scores in each test as set
 15 by the board.

16 (b) The temporary provisional certificate granted under paragraph (a) of this
 17 subsection may be renewed two (2) times with a recommendation of the
 18 superintendent and approval of the Education Professional Standards
 19 Board.

20 (c) A Teach for America participant who is approved for a second renewal of
 21 his or her temporary provisional certificate under paragraph (b) of this
 22 subsection may participate in the internship program under KRS 161.030.

23 (d) A Teach for America participant shall be issued a professional certificate
 24 upon the participant's successful completion of the internship program and
 25 assessments relating to teaching of subject matter required by the Education
 26 Professional Standards Board under KRS 161.030.

27 (e) Notwithstanding any statute or administrative regulation to the contrary, a

teacher certified under this subsection shall have ten (10) years from the date that the teacher successfully completed the internship program to complete a master's degree or fifth year program, or the equivalent as specified by the Education Professional Standards Board in administrative regulation.

(f) Alternative certification under this subsection shall be considered a pilot program and shall be an option from the effective date of this Act until the federal Race to the Top funding program under Sections 14005 and 14006 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5, is completed, except that the Education Professional Standards Board may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to make this a permanent option.


(10) A public school teacher certified under subsections (2) to ~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ of this section shall be placed on the local district salary schedule for the rank corresponding to the degree held by the teacher.

~~(11)~~~~(10)~~ Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions after six (6) or more years of continuous active duty immediately before the discharge or release, and who have at least four (4) years of occupational experience in the area in which they seek certification as a vocational industrial education teacher, shall apply for certification under and meet the requirements of the administrative regulations promulgated by the Education Professional Standards Board.

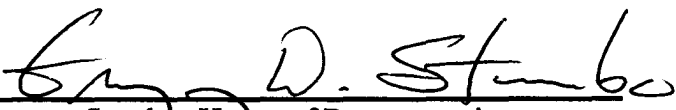
~~(12)~~~~(11)~~ Subsections (1) to (3) of this section notwithstanding, a candidate who possesses the following qualifications may receive certification for teaching programs for exceptional students:

- (a) An out-of-state license to teach exceptional students;
- (b) A bachelor's or master's degree in the certification area or closely related area

- 1 for which certification is sought; and
- 2 (c) Successful completion of the teacher internship requirement required under
- 3 KRS 161.030.
- 4 ~~(13)~~~~(12)~~ A teacher who is fully certified in Kentucky and who is seeking an additional
- 5 certification is not required to repeat the Kentucky teacher internship program.
- 6 ~~(14)~~~~(13)~~ Under KRS 161.030(5), a candidate for alternative certification may serve his
- 7 or her internship in a nonpublic school.



President of Senate



Speaker-House of Representatives

Attest: 

Chief Clerk of Senate

Approved 

Governor

Date 

April 7, 2010